# Article information:

Full article: How White is Social Work in Australia?  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0312407X.2010.510892>

# Article summary:

1. The predominant Whiteness of Australian social work is a crucial issue for the profession and practitioners to engage with to progress our practice with Indigenous people and communities.

2. Whiteness theory provides “a description of how privilege is raced and invisible: a method of unsettling this privilege; and it offers guidance for more inclusive and respectful human relationships”.

3. Social work in Australia “has yet to fully engage with an understanding of itself as racialised and to explore what this might mean for practice”.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "How White is Social Work in Australia?" raises important questions about the role of Whiteness in social work practice with Indigenous people and communities. The authors argue that the predominant Whiteness of Australian social work is a crucial issue for the profession to engage with, as it affects assumptions, presumptions, and perspectives that guide practice.

The article draws on Whiteness theory to argue that Whiteness is a multilayered social construct that includes discourses, structure, and location. It is both personal and political and forms the invisible norm against which other races are judged in the construction of identity, representation, subjectivity, nationalism, and law. The authors suggest that engaging meaningfully with Whiteness is not easy for individuals or the profession because it is enmeshed within the lived unconsciousness of White as normal.

The article highlights how Australian social work education has a significant "Whiteness gap" in its pedagogy and curriculum. While some scholars have written on the topic of Whiteness, there remains a lack of engagement with an understanding of social work as racialized and what this might mean for practice.

One potential bias in the article is its focus solely on Whiteness as a factor affecting social work practice with Indigenous people and communities. While acknowledging that race relations are essentially relations of power, the article does not explore other factors such as class or gender that may also play a role in shaping these relationships.

Another potential bias is the assumption that all non-Indigenous Australians live their lives in an Indigenous-free zone. While it may be true for many middle-class professionals such as social workers, it overlooks those who do interact regularly with Indigenous people through their work or personal lives.

The article could benefit from exploring counterarguments or alternative perspectives on how Whiteness affects social work practice with Indigenous people and communities. It could also provide more evidence to support its claims about the lack of engagement with Whiteness theory in Australian social work education.

Overall, "How White is Social Work in Australia?" raises important questions about how race affects social work practice but could benefit from exploring other factors beyond just Whiteness and providing more evidence to support its claims.

# Topics for further research:

* Intersectionality and social work practice
* Class and race relations in Australia
* Gender and Indigenous communities in Australia
* Indigenous perspectives on social work practice
* Critical race theory and social work education
* Decolonizing social work practice in Australia

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/283632e175e0f2e7caa40b2c60cceed9>